priority basis, since there is ample space for expansion at the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The parking bay has been designed to accommodate an Airbus and one B-737 and not for two Airbuses at a time.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question of expansion of the apron to meet the future requirements is being considered by the NAA. However, land required for expansion is not available with the National Airports Authority and a request has been made to the Indian Navy to transfer additional land required for this purpose.

Rates for advertisement boards at railway stations/platforms

2317. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any rates for advertisement boards at stations/platforms including the New Delhi Station;

(b) if so, what are these rates, along with the sizes;

(c) whether any charges are being recovered from the book-stall contractors at Platform No. 1 for providing neon sign board of Times of India; and

(d) if so, the details of charges recovered during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached (*See* below).

(c) The Plastic Sign of Times of India displayed over a bookstall at Platform No. 1 of New Delhi Station is being charged from M/s. Times of India through an advertising agency.

(d) A sum of Rs. 21,800/- has been recovered during the last three years.

Statement

Rates for Advertisement Boards

Sl No.	Area	Rates
1	1 to 100 sq. ft.	Rs. 21/- per sq. ft. per annum
2	101 to 250 sq. ft.	Charges for the first 100 sq. ft. (Rs. 2100/-) plus Rs. 15/- per sq. ft. per annum for the balance.
3	251 to 5000 sq. ft.	Charges for the first 250 sq. ft. (Rs. 4350/-) plus Rs. 11/- per sq.ft. per annum for the balance.
4	501 to 750 sq. ft.	Charges for the first 500 sq. ft. (Rs. 7100/-) plus Rs. 9/- per sq. ft. per annum for the balance.
5	751 to 1500 sq. ft.	Charges for the first 750 sq. ft. (Rs. 9350/-) plus Rs. 6/ per sq. ft. per annum for the balance.
6	1501 to 3000 sq. ft.	Charges for the first 1500 sq. ft. (Rs. 13,850/-) plus Rs. 4/- per sq. ft. per annum for the balance.
7	3001 sq. ft. and above	Charges for the first 3000 sq. ft. (Rs. 19,850/-) plus Rs. 3/- per sq. ft. per annum for the balance.

The above mentioned basic rates of advertisement boards are applicable at stations classified as 'B' class stations for this specific purpose. However, Zonal Railways are authorised to categorise stations as 'A' class stations and Special class stations. The charges for advertisement boards for 'A' class stations are fixed minimum 20 per cent higher than 'B' class stations. The charges for special class stations are still higher than 'A' class stations and are determined by the Zonal Railways, depending upon the importance of the stations, publicity value of specific site, potential revenue and traffic dealt with at the stations. The sizes of the advertisement boards vary from site to site and from station to station. Sizes are accepted in confirmity with the availability of sites.

Provision of facilities for passengers at the Minto Bridge and Tilak Bridge Stations

2318. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger traffic at Minto Bridge and Tilak Bridge Stations has increased;

(b) whether platform sheds, drinking water, electricity, entrance/exist gates, goods/parcel booking counters, catering/vending/book stall, cycle/scooter stands etc. have not been provided so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that to avoid congestion at New Delhi station, tonga and taxi stands and stoppage of express trains at those stations have not provided so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide such facilities at both the stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Platform sheds, drinking water, electricity, entrance and exit gates from foot-over-bridge and tea stalls have been provided at these stations. One book stall is available at Shivaji Station (Minto Bridge) and one is proposed to be opened at Tilak Bridge Station. These stations deal with suburban traffic. The provision of other facilities is not considered necessary. Stoppages of some express trains are also provided at these stations.

Additional Platforms for passengers at Delhi Junction and Ghaziabad Stations

2319. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for provision of additional passenger platforms at Delhi Junction and Ghaziabad stations for avoiding congestion;

(b) whether Government have dropped the scheme for opening of the second entry towards Kashmere Gate side at Delhi Junction; and

(c) if not, what time has been fixed for starting of work and its completion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Provision of additional platform at Ghaziabad is part of an approved work. No additional platforms are proposed at Delhi Main.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Connecting three islands in the Ernakulam Backwaters

2320. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken to implement the project for connecting the three densely populated islands in the Ernakulam Backwaters with the main land in Kerala; and

(b) to what extent the Central Government are likely to finance this multicrore project on the basis of the project-